

Primary and secondary organic aerosols in 2016 summer of Beijing

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1 **Abstract**

2 To improve the air quality, Beijing government has employed several air pollution
3 control measures since 2008 Olympics. In order to investigate the organic aerosol
4 sources after the implementation of these measures, ambient fine particulate matters
5 were collected at a regional site Changping (CP) and an urban site Peking University
6 Atmosphere Environment MonitoRing Station (PKUERS) during the “Photochemical
7 Smog in China” field Campaign in summer of 2016. A chemical mass balance (CMB)
8 modeling and the tracer yield method were used to apportion the primary and secondary
9 organic sources. Our results showed that the particle concentration decreased
10 significantly during the last a few years. The apportioned primary and secondary
11 sources explained $62.8 \pm 18.3\%$ and $80.9 \pm 27.2\%$ of the measured OC at CP and
12 PKUERS, respectively. Vehicular emissions served as the dominant sources. Except
13 gasoline engine emission, the contributions of all the other primary sources decreased.
14 Besides, the anthropogenic SOC, i.e. toluene SOC, also decreased, implying that
15 deducting primary emission can reduce anthropogenic SOA. Different from the SOA
16 from other regions in the world, where biogenic SOA was dominant, anthropogenic
17 SOA was the major contributor to SOA, implying that deducting anthropogenic VOCs
18 emissions is an efficient way to reduce SOA in Beijing. Back trajectory cluster analysis
19 results showed that high mass concentrations of OC were observed when the air mass
20 was from south. However, the contributions of different primary organic sources were
21 similar, suggesting the regional particle pollution. The ozone concentration and
22 temperature correlated well with the SOA concentration. Different correlations between
23 day and night samples suggested the different SOA formation pathways. Significant
24 enhancement of SOA with increasing particle water content and acidity were observed
25 in our study, suggesting the aqueous phase acid-catalyzed reactions may be the
26 important SOA formation mechanism in summer of Beijing.

27 **1. Introduction**

28 Beijing is the capital and a major metropolis of China. With the rapid economic growth
29 and urbanization, Beijing is experiencing serious air pollution problems, and became
30 one of the hotspots of PM_{2.5} (particular matters with size smaller than 2.5 μ m) pollution
31 in the world (Guo et al., 2014a; Xiang et al., 2017; Tian et al., 2016). Due to the frequent
32 haze events in Beijing, Beijing government has taken a series of control measures in
33 recent years, especially after 2008 Olympics, which may greatly influence the primary
34 and secondary particle sources. Therefore, elucidating the current contributions of
35 primary particle sources as well as secondary particle sources is of vital importance. It
36 is also important to compare with the previous results to evaluate the effectiveness of
37 the control measures and shed light on the influence of the primary source emission
38 control on the secondary aerosol formation.

39 Several studies regarding to the source apportionment of fine particles in Beijing have
40 been conducted using multifarious methods during the last few years (Yu et al., 2013;
41 Gao et al., 2014; Zheng et al., 2016b; Tan et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2009; Guo et al.,
42 2013). Receptor model is a commonly used method to apportion the particle sources
43 (Zhang et al., 2017; Zhou et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2013; Song et al., 2006; Zheng et
44 al., 2005). Elemental tracers were previously used to apportion particulate matter
45 sources (Yu et al., 2013; Gao et al., 2014; Zheng et al., 2016b). However, elemental
46 tracer-based method was unable to distinguish sources that mostly emit organic
47 compounds instead of specific elements such as diesel/gasoline engines. Among all the
48 apportionment methods, chemical mass balance (CMB) model was one of the most
49 commonly used methods to apportion the primary organic sources of fine particulate
50 matter (Zhang et al., 2017; Hu et al., 2015; Schauer et al., 1996). Organic tracers have
51 been successfully used in several studies which aimed to quantify the main sources of
52 Beijing (Liu et al., 2016; Guo et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2009). Wang et al. assessed the
53 source contributions of carbonaceous aerosol during 2005 to 2007 (Wang et al., 2009).

54 Guo et al. (Guo et al., 2013) and Liu et al. (Liu et al., 2016) apportioned the organic
55 aerosol sources using CMB model in summer of 2008 and a severe haze event in winter
56 of 2013. Both studies found that vehicle emission and coal combustion were the
57 dominant primary sources of fine organic particles. Tracer-yield method has been
58 considered as a useful tool to semi-quantify SOA derived from specific VOCs
59 precursors (Guo et al., 2012; Zhu et al., 2017; Zhu et al., 2016; Tao et al., 2017; Hu et
60 al., 2008). However, only a few studies have estimated secondary organic aerosol in
61 Beijing. Yang et al. (Yang et al., 2016) estimated the biogenic SOC to OC during
62 CAREBEIJING-2007 field campaign, and found that the biogenic SOC accounted for
63 3.1% of the measured OC. Guo et al. (Guo et al., 2012) illustrated the SOA
64 contributions in 2008, and found that secondary organic carbon could contribute a great
65 portion ($32.5 \pm 15.9\%$) to measured organic carbon at the urban site. Ding et al. (Ding
66 et al., 2014) used the tracer-yield method to investigate the SOA loading on a national
67 scale and found that SOA, especially anthropogenic SOA played great role in major
68 city clusters of China.

69 In this study, we quantified 144 kinds of particulate organic species, including primary
70 and secondary organic tracers, at a regional site and an urban site of Beijing. A CMB
71 modeling and the tracer yield method were used to apportion the primary and secondary
72 sources of the organic aerosols in the 2016 summer of Beijing. The results were
73 compared with the previous studies to evaluate the effectiveness of control measures
74 on primary as well as secondary organic aerosols. Moreover, source apportionment
75 results from different air mass origins according to the back trajectory clustering
76 analysis were shown to investigate the influences of air mass from different directions
77 on the fine organic particle sources. Influencing factors of SOA formation, i.e.
78 temperature, oxidant concentration, aerosol water content, as well as particle acidity
79 were also discussed in this study to improve our understanding of SOA formation under
80 polluted environment.

81 2. Experimental

82 2.1 Sampling and Chemical Analysis

83 The measurements were conducted simultaneously at an urban site Peking University
84 Atmosphere Environment MonitoRing Station (PKUERS, 39°59'21" N, 116°18'25" E)
85 and a regional site Changping (CP, 40°8'24"N, 116°6'36" E) 40km north of PKUERS
86 site during "Photochemical Smog in China" campaign, from May 16th to June 5th, 2016
87 (see Fig. S1) (Hallquist et al., 2016). The PKUERS site is set on the roof at an academic
88 building on the campus of Peking University in the northwest of Beijing. CP site is
89 located on the fourth floor of a building on the Peking University Changping campus
90 of Changping.

91 Four-channel samplers (TH-16A, Tianhong, China) consisting of three quartz filter
92 channel and one Teflon filter channel, were employed to collect 12-h aerosol samples
93 at PKUERS and CP, respectively. The sampling flow rate was 16.7 L min⁻¹. Teflon
94 filters were weighed by a microbalance (Toledo AX105DR, USA) after a 24 h balance
95 in an environmental controlled room (temperature 20 ± 1°C, relative humidity 40 ± 3%)
96 for gravimetric analysis. Teflon-based samples were extracted by deionized water to
97 measure water-soluble inorganic compounds (WSICs), namely Na⁺, NH₄⁺, K⁺, Mg²⁺,
98 Ca²⁺, NO₃⁻, SO₄²⁻ and Cl⁻ by DIONEX ICS-2500 and ICS-2000 ion-chromatograph.
99 One punch (1.45 cm²) of quartz-based sample was then cut off to analyze the EC and
100 OC via thermal-optical method using Sunset Laboratory-based instrument (NIOSH
101 protocol, TOT). The other two quartz filters were then extracted and analyzed for
102 chemical composition and particulate organic matters. Some daytime and nighttime
103 samples were combined to ensure the detection of most organic compounds. To better
104 understand the chemical speciation, daytime samples were separated from nighttime
105 samples.

106 Authentic standards were used to identify and quantify the organic compounds. The
107 analytical methods used in this study referred to the previous work (Song et al., 2014).

108 Briefly, the samples were first spiked with a mixture of internal standard, including
109 ketopinic acid (KPA), 20 kinds of deuterated compounds, and one carbon isotope ^{13}C -
110 substituted compound. The quartz filters were then ultrasonically extracted with
111 methanol: dichloromethane (v:v=1:3) solvent in water bath (temperature $< 30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) for 3
112 times. Each time was 20 min. The extracts were filtered, and then concentrated using a
113 rotary vacuum evaporator. An ultra-pure nitrogen flow was used to further concentrate
114 the extracts into 0.5-1 ml. Each extracted solution was divided into two portions, one
115 of which added BSTFA (BSTFA/TMCS = 99:1, Supelco) to convert polar organic
116 compounds into trimethylsilylated derivatives. Afterwards, the derivatized and the
117 untreated samples were analyzed by an Agilent 6890 GC-MS System (MSD GC-5973N)
118 equipped with an Agilent DB-5MS GC column (30 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.5 μm).

119 **2.2 Source Apportionment**

120 A chemical mass balance modelling developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection
121 Agency (EPA CMB version 8.2) was applied to determine the apportion of the primary
122 contribution of OC (Schauer et al., 1996). This receptor model solved a set of linear
123 equations using ambient concentrations and chemical source profiles. CMB approach
124 depends strongly on the representativeness of the source profile. In this study, five
125 primary source profiles including vegetative detritus (Rogge et al., 1993), coal
126 combustion (Zheng et al., 2005), gasoline engines (Lough et al., 2007), diesel engines
127 (Lough et al., 2007) as well as biomass burning (Sheesley et al., 2007) were input into
128 the model. Fitting species including EC, n-alkanes, levoglucosan, $17\beta(\text{H})$ - $21\alpha(\text{H})$ -
129 norhopane, $17\alpha(\text{H})$ - $21\beta(\text{H})$ -hopane, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene,
130 benzo(e)pyrene, benzo(ghi)perylene, indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene. The criteria for
131 acceptable fitting results included the square regression coefficient of the regression
132 equation $R^2 > 0.85$ as well as the sum of square residual Chi-square value $\chi^2 < 4$.

133 The tracer yield method was used to estimate the contributions of biogenic and
134 anthropogenic secondary organic aerosols using fixed tracers to SOC ratio (f_{SOC}) based

135 on laboratory experiments, which was 0.155 ± 0.039 for isoprene, 0.231 ± 0.111 for α -
136 pinene, 0.0230 ± 0.0046 for β -caryophyllene and 0.0079 ± 0.0026 for toluene
137 (Kleindienst et al., 2007). The mass fraction depends on the degree of oxidation.
138 Besides, the uncertainty also depends on the selection of molecular tracers and the
139 simplified procedures by using single-valued mass fractions (Yttri et al., 2011; El
140 Haddad et al., 2011; Song et al., 2014; Guo et al., 2014b; Guo et al., 2014c). Previous
141 studies showed that SOA estimated by the tracer-yield method and POA apportioned
142 by CMB model could fully account for the OA in atmospheric atmosphere
143 (Lewandowski et al., 2008; Kleindienst et al., 2010). Besides, researchers found that
144 the total estimated SOC derived from tracer-yield method was in accordance with the
145 that stemmed from EC-tracer method during summer (Ding et al., 2012; Kleindienst et
146 al., 2010; Turpin and Huntzicker, 1995). Comparable results were also found between
147 tracer-yield method and positive matrix factorization model (Hu et al., 2010; Zhang et
148 al., 2009). All these results firmly demonstrated that the tracer-yield method is a
149 valuable and convincing method to estimate the SOA contributions (Ding et al., 2014).

150 Estimations based on boundary values were generally acknowledged to have the largest
151 source of uncertainties in the models, so those results could be used to determine the
152 possible limit of the estimations. Also, Kleindienst et al. carried out a boundary analysis
153 using the data from North California to measure the range of estimated SOA
154 contributions. Results revealed that the possible contributions of isoprene, α -pinene, β -
155 caryophyllene and toluene were within the scope of 70-130%, 50-220%, 70-120% and
156 60-160%, respectively. The above results were supposed to be in the acceptable range
157 for PM_{2.5} source apportionment. Besides, the standard deviations of the tracer-to-SOC
158 ratios were suitable as a source profile uncertainty (Kleindienst et al., 2007). Despite
159 the uncertainties above, tracer-yield represented a unique approach to estimate the SOA
160 contributions using individual hydrocarbon precursors up to now.

161 3. Gaseous pollutants and particle chemical composition

162 3.1 Gaseous pollutants and meteorological conditions of the observation period

163 Mixing ratios of gaseous pollutants and meteorological conditions during the
164 observation period were shown in Fig. S2 and Table S1. Compared with the results in
165 summer of 2010 (Zheng et al., 2016a), the gaseous mixing ratios SO₂ and CO were
166 lower than before owing to the desulfurization efforts made by the government. Higher
167 concentrations of NO and NO₂ were caused by the increasing number of vehicles. The
168 increment of ozone indicated the importance of secondary pollution. Clearly, ozone
169 concentration at CP was higher than that of PKUERS while other pollutants were lower.

170 During the campaign, the average wind speed was low, showing average values of 2.3
171 \pm 1.4 m/s and 2.4 \pm 1.5 m/s at CP and PKUERS, respectively. The diurnal variations of
172 wind directions and speeds are exhibited in Fig. S2. The prevailing wind was from south,
173 with higher wind speed during the daytime.

174 To explore the influence of the air masses from different directions on fine particle
175 loading and sources, back trajectory analysis was performed using National Oceanic
176 and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hybrid Single Particle Lagrangian
177 Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) model. We calculated 36 h air mass back trajectories
178 arriving at two sampling site during the observation period using the HYSPLIT-4 model
179 with a 1° \times 1° latitude-longitude grid and the final meteorological database. The model
180 was run with the starting time of 0:00, 4:00, 8:00, 12:00, 16:00, and 20:00 UTC). The
181 arrival level was set at 200 m above ground level. The method used in trajectory
182 clustering was based on GIS-based software TrajStat
183 (<http://www.meteothinker.com/TrajStatProduct.aspx>). 36-h back trajectories starting at
184 200 m above ground level in CP and PKUERS were calculated every 4 hours during
185 the entire campaign and then clustered according to their similarity in spatial
186 distribution using the HYSPLIT4 software. Three-cluster solution was adopted as
187 shown in Fig. S3. The three clusters were defined as Far North West (Cluster 1, Far

188 NW), Near West North (Cluster2, Near WN), and South (Cluster 3). South cluster was
189 found to be the most frequent one, accounting for 52% at CP and 64% at PKUERS.
190 Clusters Far NW and Near NW accounted for 17% and 31%, 17% and 19% at CP and
191 PKUERS, respectively.

192 **3.2 Overview of PM_{2.5} chemical composition**

193 In this study, daily PM_{2.5} concentrations fluctuated dramatically from 6.7 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ to 80.3
194 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at CP, and from 9.6 to 82.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at PKUERS, respectively. A paired t-test was
195 used to compare the mass concentrations at two sites. The results indicate that the mass
196 concentrations showed statistically non-significant difference, suggesting the regional
197 particle pollution in Beijing. PM_{2.5} mass concentrations during the summer of 2008 to
198 2016 in Beijing are summarized in Table 1. Guo et al. (Guo et al., 2013) reported the
199 average PM_{2.5} concentrations during the summers of 2000 to 2008, which showed
200 distinct decreasing tendency during 2000-2006 and then slightly increased in 2007 due
201 to unfavorable meteorological conditions. To better understand the variation tendency
202 of the PM_{2.5} in the summer of Beijing, we compared the fine particle matter data since
203 2008. Compared with 2008, the PM_{2.5} concentrations decreased from $92.3 \pm 44.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
204 3 to $88.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in 2009 and $62.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in 2010. The mass concentration continued
205 falling to $45.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in 2016. This decreasing is attributed to the drastic emission
206 control measures implemented by the Beijing government since 2012. In spite of the
207 prominent decrease of the PM_{2.5} mass concentrations, the aerosol loading in Beijing
208 was still much higher than that in developed countries (Tai et al., 2010; Barmpadimos
209 et al., 2012; Park and Cho, 2011).

210 Fig. S4 showed the chemical composition of PM_{2.5}. In general, organic particulate
211 matters (OM, OC*1.6) and sulfate were the two dominant components, accounting for
212 more than 50% of the PM_{2.5} mass concentration during the field campaign. The average
213 concentration of total WSICs for CP was $17.4 \pm 11.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, higher than that of
214 PKUERS ($12.2 \pm 8.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$). Among the WSICs, secondary inorganic ions (sulfate,

215 nitrate, and ammonium) were the most abundant compounds, indicating secondary
216 particles played great roles in the summer of Beijing. The higher sulfate proportion
217 could be explained by the increased photochemical conversion of sulfur dioxide to
218 sulfate aerosol (Xiang et al., 2017). Relevant data of main WSICs (sulfate, nitrate and
219 ammonia) during 2008 to 2016 were also included in table 1 to better elucidate the
220 drastic decrease of fine particulate matter in recent years. Results showed that the daily
221 average concentration of WSICs decreased from 2008 to 2016, with sulfate decreased
222 from $35.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to $4.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, nitrate decreased from $7.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to $2.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, ammonia
223 decreased from $15.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to $3.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The significant decrease of WSICs confirmed
224 the effectiveness of the control measures taken by the government.

225 Carbonaceous aerosols, i.e. organic carbon (OC) and elemental carbon (EC) were also
226 great contributors to $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations. Higher proportion of OC and EC at
227 PKUERS demonstrated severe carbonaceous pollution in urban Beijing, which might
228 have close correlation with the higher traffic flow, coal/wood combustion by residents
229 and industrial emissions (Wang et al., 2006; Dan et al., 2004; Cao et al., 2004).
230 Comparison of the OC, EC concentrations from 2008 to 2016 were also listed in Table
231 1. Unlike $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, OC concentration at PKUERS showed a higher OC concentration (11.0
232 $\pm 3.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) compared with that in 2008 ($9.2 \pm 3.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), suggesting organic aerosol
233 pollution becomes more and more important. EC concentration decreased dramatically
234 to $0.7 \pm 0.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at CP and $1.8 \pm 1.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at PKUERS, which showed the lowest
235 value since 2000. This could be attributed to the implementation of air pollution
236 prevention and control action plan enacted by the state council since 2013. Therefore,
237 we could draw a conclusion that the drastic decrease of fine particulate matter in Beijing
238 was mainly due to the well-controlled EC and WSICs, with negligible contribution of
239 OC.

240 To evaluate the influences of the air masses from different directions on the $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
241 loadings during the campaign, three categories were divided according to the back
242 trajectory clustering analysis (See Fig. S5). In general, cluster south represented the

243 most polluted air mass origin followed by clusters Near WN and Far NW, which was
244 in accordance with previous studies demonstrating severe aerosol pollution in southerly
245 air flow in summer of Beijing (Huang et al., 2010; Sun et al., 2010).

246 **3.3 Concentration of particulate organic species from different air mass origins**

247 The organic species (except secondary organic tracers) were divided into 12 categories.
248 Their concentrations in different directions according to the back trajectory clustering
249 were shown in Fig. S6. Detailed information for each class at the two sites could be
250 found in the supplementary material (Fig. S7). Cluster south showed higher particulate
251 organic matter concentration, followed by cluster near WN and far NW, indicating more
252 severe aerosol pollution from the south. Our result consists with the previous studies
253 that more pollution emissions are from the south area of Beijing than those from the
254 north (Wu et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2009).

255 For all the species, the histogram showed the daily average concentrations with error
256 bars representing one standard deviation. Dicarboxylic acid was the most abundant
257 species among all the components, demonstrating the great contribution of the
258 secondary formation to the organic aerosols in the summer of Beijing (Guo et al., 2010).
259 A series of n-alkanes ranging from C₁₂ to C₃₆ were analyzed. Their distribution during
260 the observation period was shown in Fig. S7 (a). The maximum-alkane concentration
261 species (C_{max}) were C₂₇ and C₂₉. The odd carbon preference was an indicative of
262 biogenic sources (vegetative matters and biomass burning) (Huang et al., 2006; Rogge
263 et al., 1993). In this study, total PAHs were much lower than previous studies in summer
264 of Beijing, suggesting the effectiveness of the control strategies since 2013 (Wang et
265 al., 2009). According to Fig. S7 (c), five ring PAHs were dominant species among all
266 the species, followed by four-ring and six-ring PAHs. In total, four to six ring PAHs had
267 higher abundancy, accounting for more than 60% of the total PAHs. The result was
268 much similar with previous studies that the distribution of PAHs was impacted by the
269 volatility of PAHs and the temperature (Wang et al., 2009; Guo et al., 2013). Saccharide

270 was considered to originate from biomass burning (Simoneit et al., 1999). In this study,
271 we quantified three sugar compounds including levoglucosan, manosan and galactosan,
272 in which levoglucosan was considered as a good tracer for biomass burning. The
273 average daily mass concentration of levoglucosan at CP and PKUERS were $53.03 \pm$
274 39.26 ng m^{-3} and $59.87 \pm 38.93 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$, respectively. It's worth mentioning that the
275 levoglucosan concentration was the lowest in recent years (Cheng et al., 2013; Guo et
276 al., 2013). Hopanes have been considered as markers for oil combustion (Lambe et al.,
277 2009), vehicles (i.e. gasoline-powered and diesel-powered engine) (Cass, 1998; Lough
278 et al., 2007) and coal combustion (Oros and Simoneit, 2000). Nevertheless,
279 contributions of coal combustion to hopanes were much less than that of vehicle
280 exhaustion. Concentrations of quantified hopanes including $17\alpha(\text{H})$ -22,29,30-
281 trishopane, $17\beta(\text{H})$ -21 $\alpha(\text{H})$ -norhopane, and $17\alpha(\text{H})$ -21 $\beta(\text{H})$ -hopane of CP and
282 PKUERS are shown in Fig. S7(d). The total average concentrations of hopanes were
283 $3.05 \pm 1.53 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ for CP and $3.90 \pm 2.06 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ for PKUERS. The daily averaged
284 hopanes concentrations at urban site PKUERS were much higher than that of CP, which
285 could probably explained by the heavier vehicle emissions in the urban area. The
286 concentrations of primary organic tracers used in CMB model were listed in Table S2.

287 **3.4 Biogenic and anthropogenic SOA tracers**

288 Table S3 compared the SOA tracers measured in this work with those in other regions
289 in the world as well as that observed in Beijing 2008. The sites for comparison include
290 an urban background site at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, India
291 (IITB) (Fu et al., 2016), an outflow region of Asian aerosols and precursors Cape Hedo,
292 Okinawa, Japan (CH) (Zhu et al., 2016), a residential site at Yuen Long, Hong Kong
293 (YL) (Hu et al., 2008), three industrial sites at Cleveland Ohio (CL, data was averaged
294 among the three sites), a suburban site in the Research Triangle Park North California
295 (RTP). The detailed information about these sites were summarized in the
296 supplementary material.

297 Three isoprene-SOA tracers i.e. two 2-methyltetrols (2-methylthreitol and 2-
298 methylerythritol) and 2-methylglyceric acid were detected. The summed concentration
299 of the isoprene-SOA tracers ranged from 3.7 to 62.3 ng m⁻³ at CP and 8.6 to 46.5 ng m⁻³
300 at PKUERS. The concentration was higher than that of IITB and CH. Compared with
301 the isoprene-SOA tracers in 2008, the concentrations in 2016 were lower.

302 Nine α -pinene tracers were identified. The sum of the tracers ranged from 20.9 to 282.3
303 ng m⁻³ at CP and 50.0 to 161.4 ng m⁻³ at PKUERS, which had similar distribution
304 pattern with that measured in 2008 Beijing and YL. The total α -pinene tracer
305 concentrations were lower than those in 2008, while still much higher than the
306 concentrations in other regions of the world.

307 β -caryophyllinic acid is one of the oxidation products of β -caryophyllene which is
308 considered as a tracer for β -caryophyllene SOA. In this study, β -caryophyllinic acid
309 concentrations ranged from 1.4 to 16.7 ng m⁻³ at CP, and 0.9 to 12.0 ng m⁻³ at PKUERS,
310 with average daily average concentrations of 6.1 ± 3.5 ng m⁻³ and 6.0 ± 2.8 ng m⁻³ for
311 CP and PKUERS, respectively. The values were lower than those at YL and RPT, higher
312 than that measured at Yufa and PKUERS in 2008.

313 2,3-Dihydroxy-4-oxopentanoic acid is deemed as a tracer for toluene SOA. Our results
314 showed that the 2,3-Dihydroxy-4-oxopentanoic acid concentration was 9.7 ± 7.3 ng m⁻³
315 at CP and 11.0 ± 3.7 ng m⁻³ at PKUERS. Compared with other regions of the world,
316 the concentrations of 2,3-Dihydroxy-4-oxopentanoic acid was much higher, implying
317 higher contributions of anthropogenic sources at Beijing. However, the 2,3-dihydroxy-
318 4-oxopentanoic acid concentrations in CP were lower than that of PKUERS.

319 **4. Primary sources and secondary formation of organic aerosols**

320 **4.1 Contributions of primary and secondary organic aerosols**

321 A CMB model and the tracer-yield method were used to quantify the contributions of
322 primary and secondary sources to the ambient organic carbon (See Fig. 1). On average,

323 the primary sources accounted for $42.6 \pm 15.4\%$ and $50.4 \pm 19.1\%$ of the measured OC
324 at CP and PKUERS, respectively. The vehicle emissions were the dominant primary
325 sources, with the contributions of $28.8 \pm 14.8\%$ and $37.6 \pm 19.3\%$ at PKUERS and CP,
326 respectively, implying the urgency to control vehicular exhaustion in urban areas.
327 Despite of the lower contribution of the gasoline exhaust at PKUERS, the mass
328 concentration of the gasoline exhaust was higher compared with that of CP given the
329 higher OC loading at PKUERS. The contributions of biomass burning were $3.9 \pm 2.6\%$
330 and $5.0 \pm 2.2\%$ at CP and PKUERS, respectively, showing the higher concentrations at
331 night. The drastic change of the biomass burning contribution in CP at night was due to
332 occasional burning activities at night. Coal combustion contributed $5.8 \pm 5.5\%$ and 4.6
333 $\pm 2.6\%$ of the measured OC at CP and PKUERS. The higher contribution at CP was
334 due to more burning activities in the suburban areas.

335 The secondary organic sources accounted for $20.2 \pm 6.7\%$ of the organic carbon at CP,
336 with $1.6 \pm 0.4\%$ from isoprene, $4.4 \pm 1.5\%$ from α -pinene, $2.7 \pm 1.0\%$ from β -
337 caryophyllene and $12.5 \pm 3.4\%$ from toluene. As for PKUERS, the secondary organic
338 sources took up $30.5 \pm 12.0\%$ of the measured OC, in which isoprene was responsible
339 for $2.3 \pm 0.9\%$, α -pinene for $5.6 \pm 1.9\%$, β -caryophyllene for $3.6 \pm 2.6\%$ and toluene
340 for $19.0 \pm 8.2\%$. Haque et al. (Haque et al., 2016) used tracer-based method to apportion
341 the organic carbon and results showed that the biogenic SOC was responsible for 21.3%
342 of the total OC with isoprene SOC contributing 17.4%, α/β -pinene SOC contributing
343 2.5% and β -caryophyllene SOC contributing 1.4% in the summer of Alaska, implying
344 the significant contributions of the biogenic SOA to the loading of the organic aerosol.
345 Our results exhibited that the biogenic SOA concentration was comparable or even high
346 than that at some forest sites in other places of the world (Miyazaki et al., 2012; Stone
347 et al., 2012; Claeys et al., 2004; Kourtchev et al., 2008). The SOA formation mechanism
348 is complicated. A possible reason is the high oxidation capacity in China. Higher
349 oxidation capacity in China may fasten the chemical lifetime of reactive gases and
350 accelerate the aerosol aging process which leads to an increase in biogenic SOA

351 (Ghirardo et al., 2016). Another possible reason derived from the complicated
352 emissions of anthropogenic VOCs which can lead to an enhancement of secondary
353 organic aerosol formation from biogenic precursors (Hoyle et al., 2011). We also
354 compare the isoprene concentration with the forest site according to some literatures.
355 Wang et al. (Wang et al., 2010) discovered that the mean isoprene concentration was
356 0.24 ppbv at PKUERS in June 2008. Lappalainen et al. (Lappalainen et al., 2009)
357 measured the isoprene concentration of the boreal forest in Hyytiala and found that the
358 mean concentration of isoprene was 0.15 ppbv. This comparable, or even higher
359 concentration of isoprene may be due to different sources of biogenic VOCs. More
360 work is still needed to investigate the SOA formation mechanism under Air Pollution
361 Complex in China.

362 Stone et al. (Stone et al., 2009) discovered that primary and secondary sources
363 accounted for $83 \pm 8\%$ of the measured organic carbon, with primary sources accounted
364 for $37 \pm 2\%$ and SOC contributed for $46 \pm 6\%$ with $16 \pm 2\%$ from biogenic gas-phase
365 precursors and $30 \pm 4\%$ from toluene using CMB model and tracer-based method at
366 Cleveland with heavy industries, implying that anthropogenic sources played great
367 roles in the formation of SOA. Our results showed a similar with the results published
368 by Stone et al., where anthropogenic sources i.e. toluene derived SOC dominated the
369 apportioned SOC. Our research revealed an important point that controlling SOA seems
370 feasible in the developing countries like China. It is difficult to control SOA in
371 developed countries, since biogenic SOA are dominant. However, deducting
372 anthropogenic precursors may be an efficient way to reduce the SOA pollution where
373 anthropogenic SOA is dominant. On average, $62.8 \pm 18.3\%$ and $80.9 \pm 27.2\%$ of the
374 measured OC were apportioned at CP and PKUERS, respectively. About $36.3 \pm 18.1\%$
375 and $29.3 \pm 15.6\%$ of the OC sources remained unknown, which were probably
376 composed of uncharacterized primary or secondary sources. Further research is needed
377 to explain the unapportioned sources of OC.

378 Due to the drastic emission control measures taken by the Beijing government, the
379 primary and secondary sources in Beijing may change greatly. Fig. 2 displayed the
380 comparison of the sources between 2008 and 2016 at the same site PKUERS. We
381 compared the average contributions by percentage rather than the mass concentration.
382 In general, primary sources contributed $50.4 \pm 19.1\%$ of the measured OC in 2016,
383 closely correlated to the increasing contribution of vehicular emissions. Gasoline
384 engines accounted for 18% of the measured OC, showing an enhancement of 80% with
385 respect to 2008. This might be related to the rising number of the vehicles in Beijing.
386 In comparison, diesel exhaust decreased by 12.5% due to the strict control measures
387 made by the government. A 28.5% and 20% reduction of coal combustion and biomass
388 burning could also be found due to the drastic measures made by the government.
389 Compared with 2008, contributions of secondary organic aerosol decreased by 29.4%,
390 in which biogenic SOC served as the biggest contributor to this decreasing. The
391 formation of biogenic SOA is complicated. Several factors can affect biogenic SOC
392 formation, among which the precursor concentration is one of the crucial factors.
393 Biogenic VOCs, i.e. isoprene, α -pinene etc. are predominantly emitted from plant
394 foliage in a constitutive manner. The emission rate of biogenic VOCs depends on
395 various factors, e.g. radiation, temperature, humidity, meteorological conditions and
396 seasonality (Ghirardo et al., 2016). Two or more of them will act synergistically to have
397 an effect on the concentration of isoprene SOC. Besides, the changes of the vegetation
398 in certain area may also play a part in the change of the SOC concentration. Considering
399 its comprehensive synergistic effect, it's difficult to determine the main reason
400 responsible for the isoprene SOC decrease.

401 However, the contribution of toluene SOC was the highest among the apportioned SOC,
402 which was different from the results of the most developed countries in the world.
403 Compared with previous studies, except β -caryophyllene SOC, vegetative detritus and
404 gasoline exhausts, the contributions of all other sources decreased, e.g. isoprene SOC,
405 α -pinene SOC, toluene SOC, biomass burning, diesel exhaust, and coal combustion.

406 However, the increases in β -caryophellene SOC, vegetative detritus and gasoline
407 exhausts could not compensate for the decreases of other sources. This can be attributed
408 to the larger portion of uncharacterized sources compared with 2008. The
409 uncharacterized sources may mainly contain cooking emissions, mineral and road dust,
410 industrial pollution as well as other uncharacterized secondary sources (Tian et al., 2016;
411 Liu et al., 2016). In summary, the contributions of most POA decreased in recent years,
412 except for gasoline exhaust, indicating more efforts should be made to control the
413 gasoline emission. The apportioned SOC was also decreased with toluene SOC served
414 as the dominant source. Our results revealed that deducting anthropogenic precursors
415 may be an efficient way to control SOA pollution in China.

416 **4.2 Organic aerosol sources from different air mass origins**

417 The regional sources and transport of air pollutants exert profound impacts on air
418 quality of Beijing. To better understand the regional impacts on the primary and
419 secondary aerosol sources of Beijing, source apportionment results when air mass from
420 different origins were shown in Fig. 3. Vehicular emissions i.e. gasoline and diesel
421 exhaust showed identical contributions from different air mass origins (31.0% from
422 south vs 31.3% from Near WN vs 31.7% from Far NW) at PKUERS, demonstrating
423 the vehicular pollution could mostly be attributed to the vehicular emission at the local
424 site. However, the contribution of vehicular emission at CP showed significant
425 difference from different air mass origins, with lowest contribution when air mass was
426 from far northwest. This might be explained by regional transport from different
427 directions. Comparable contributions of coal combustion and biomass burning were
428 found at CP and PKUERS from different air mass origins, implying the regional
429 pollution in Beijing. Similarly, biogenic SOC showed similar contributions from
430 different air mass origins both at the regional site and the urban site. From all the
431 directions, the toluene SOC (anthropogenic source) was the largest contributor to
432 apportioned SOC, with higher concentrations at the urban site PKUERS. On the whole,

433 most of the sources showed comparable contribution from different air mass origins,
434 implying the pollution in Beijing was regional.

435 **4.3 Influencing factors for secondary organic aerosol formation in the summer of** 436 **Beijing**

437 Laboratory experiments have revealed that several factors can influence the SOA
438 formation, e.g. oxidants (OH radical, ozone etc.), temperature, humidity, particle water
439 content and acidity. We found that the correlations between SOC and ozone/temperature
440 are different for daytime and nighttime samples. However, it's not significant for water
441 content and hydrogen ions concentration. Therefore, we separate the data between day
442 and night between SOC and ozone/temperature, and use entire data for the analysis of
443 particle water and acidity. In this work, the relationships between estimated SOA and
444 these factors were investigated to better understand the SOA formation in Beijing.

445 **SOA formation from ozonolysis**

446 Ozone is considered as an important oxidant for SOA formation. Fig. 4 (a)(b) showed
447 the correlation with ozone mixing ratio and SOC. It is clear that SOC increased
448 significantly with the increasing of ozone mixing ratio, which is consistent with
449 previous studies in Beijing (Guo et al. 2012). Different correlations were found between
450 day and night samples, with better correlation for the daytime samples at both sites,
451 implying SOA may have other formation mechanism at night other than ozonolysis. At
452 CP, the growth rate of SOC with O₃ was similar for day and night samples, which was
453 0.02 μg m⁻³ per ppbv ozone. For PKUERS, the increment rate of the SOC towards
454 ozone was 0.04 μg m⁻³ and 0.02 μg m⁻³ per ppbv ozone at day and night, respectively.

455 **Influence of temperature and relative humidity on SOA formation**

456 Temperature was considered as a great influencing factor on SOA formation. On the
457 one hand, higher temperature promoted the evaporation of the semi volatile SOA. On
458 the other hand, high-temperature conditions would favor the oxidation, which would

459 accelerate the SOA formation (Saathoff et al., 2009). Fig. 4 (c) (d) showed the variation
460 of SOC concentrations with the temperature. In this study, SOC concentration showed
461 positive correlation with temperature at CP and PKUERS, demonstrating that
462 temperature favors the SOA formation in the summer of Beijing. Moreover, different
463 correlation of the day and the night samples imply the different pathways of SOA
464 formation. However, poor relations could be found between SOC and RH.

465 **Effects of aqueous-phase acid catalyzed reactions on SOA formation**

466 Aerosol water and acidity have been considered to have great impact on the aqueous-
467 phase SOA formation (Cheng et al., 2016). To figure out the influences of water content
468 and aerosol acidity on the aqueous-phase reactions, ISORROPIA-II thermodynamic
469 equilibrium model was used (Surratt et al., 2007). The model was set at forward mode,
470 based on the concentrations of particle phase Na^+ , NH_4^+ , K^+ , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , NO_3^- , SO_4^{2-} ,
471 Cl^- and gaseous NH_3 as well as ambient temperature and RH.

472 Results showed that the average aerosol water content at CP was $3.87 \pm 3.73 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$,
473 higher than that at PKUERS ($1.83 \pm 1.81 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$). The water content was lower in 2016
474 than that in 2008. The estimated SOC concentration showed good correlations with
475 water content at both sites. Compared with CP, the correlation factor in PKUERS was
476 better, implying that aqueous phase reaction may be more important in the urban area.
477 Different correlation could be found at different liquid water contents, especially for CP,
478 where liquid water content spanned a wide range, implying that different mechanisms
479 may exist at different liquid water content.

480 In this study, modeled H^+ concentration and SOC showed significant correlation
481 ($p < 0.05$) at the two places, which indicated that acid-catalyzed reaction might provide
482 a crucial pathway for the SOA formation in the summer of Beijing. Laboratory studies
483 showed that acid-catalyzed reactive uptake might play great role in the enhancement of
484 SOA (Zhang et al., 2014; Surratt et al., 2010; Jang et al., 2002). However, contrary
485 conclusions were made by other group, demonstrating the inconsistency of the aerosol

486 acidity and the SOA formation (Wong et al., 2015; Kristensen et al., 2014). The
487 contradiction might give the facts that the impacts of the acidity on the SOA loading
488 varied from place to place, determined by the specific environmental conditions. Linear
489 regression showed that the enhancement of SOC with modeled H^+ concentration were
490 at a value of $0.02 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ per nmol H^+ , which was lower than the previous results (0.046
491 for PKUERS, and 0.041 for Yufa, 2008). Offenberg et al. (Offenberg et al., 2009)
492 discovered good correlation between SOC and $[H^+]_{\text{air}}$, with R^2 value of 0.815 . Besides,
493 a one $\text{nmol m}^{-3} [H^+]_{\text{air}}$ would give rise to $0.015 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ SOC increase from the oxidation
494 of α -pinene in the chamber experiment. We also analyzed the relationship between
495 apportioned SOC and sulfate concentration and found that the apportioned SOC
496 increased with the increase of sulfate concentration. The coefficient R^2 were 0.41 and
497 0.45 for CP and PKUERS, respectively, indicating that the increase of SOC may be
498 influenced by the sulfate aerosol. As such, the increase in SOC is likely arise from the
499 acid-catalyzed reactions with the participation of sulfate aerosols. In the present work,
500 different correlations could be found at different modeled H^+ concentrations where
501 apportioned SOC increased significantly as the H^+ concentration increased and then
502 increased slowly at a certain level, showing gradient growth at different hydrogen-ion
503 concentrations. Therefore, aqueous phase acid-catalyzed reactions may influence the
504 SOA formation through different mechanisms at varied level of liquid water
505 concentration and aerosol acidity.

506 **5. Conclusion**

507 High concentrations of fine particles were observed during the “Campaign on
508 Photochemical Smog in China”, with the average mass concentrations of 45.48 ± 19.78
509 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and $42.99 \pm 17.50 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, at CP site and PKUERS site, respectively. Compared
510 with previous studies, the concentrations of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, EC and estimated SOC decreased
511 significantly, due to the drastic measures implemented by the government in the recent
512 years. However, OC showed a higher concentration, suggesting particulate organic
513 matters become more and more important in Beijing. CMB modeling and tracer-yield

514 method were used to apportion the primary and secondary organic aerosol sources. The
515 apportioned primary and secondary OC accounted for $62.8 \pm 18.3\%$ and $80.9 \pm 27.2\%$
516 of the measured OC at CP and PKUERS, respectively. Vehicle emissions i.e. diesel and
517 gasoline engine emissions were the major primary organic aerosol sources, which
518 contributed to $28.8 \pm 14.8\%$ and $37.6 \pm 19.3\%$ of the OC at CP and PKUERS,
519 respectively. Compared with the results of the previous work, the gasoline engine
520 emission contributed almost twice of that in 2008 (18.0% vs 10.0%), while the
521 contribution of diesel engine emission decreased by 12.5% compared with the result in
522 2008. Besides, the contributions of biomass burning and coal combustion both
523 decreased. The apportioned biogenic and anthropogenic SOC can explain $20.2 \pm 6.7\%$
524 and $30.5 \pm 12.0\%$ of the measured OC at CP and PKUERS, respectively. The
525 contribution of toluene SOC is the highest among the apportioned SOC, which is
526 different from the results of the most developed countries in the world. Our results
527 revealed an important point, which is that controlling SOA seems feasible in the
528 developing countries like China. It is difficult to control SOA in developed countries,
529 since biogenic SOA are dominant. However, deducting anthropogenic precursors may
530 be an efficient way to reduce the SOA pollution where anthropogenic SOA is dominant.
531 Back trajectory clustering analysis showed that the particle source contributions were
532 similar when air masses were from different directions, suggesting the regional organic
533 particle pollution in Beijing. However, the higher organic particle loading from south
534 cluster indicates that there were more emissions from southern region of Beijing. The
535 present work also implied that the aqueous phase acid-catalyzed reactions may be an
536 important SOA formation mechanism in summer of Beijing.

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TableTable 1. Summer PM_{2.5} mass concentrations in Beijing from 2008-2016, average ± standard deviation (μg m⁻³).

Year/Month	2008/07	2009/07	2010/05	2016/05-06	2016/05-06
Site	PKUERS	PKUERS	PKUERS	CP	PKUERS
	(μg m ⁻³)	(μg m ⁻³)	(μg m ⁻³)	(μg m ⁻³)	(μg m ⁻³)
PM _{2.5}	92.3±44.7	88.2±52.3	62.7±36.5	43.0±17.5	45.5±19.8
OC	10.4±2.9	8.5±2.5	8.9±4.5	8.9±3.2	11.0±3.7
EC	3.3±1.5	2.5±0.9	2.1±1.1	0.7±0.5	1.8±1.0
SO ₄ ²⁻	35.6±24.7	25.5±18.6	11.8±9.8	7.9±5.7	4.7±3.4
NO ₃ ⁻	7.9±6.9	17.8±13.2	10.0±11.2	3.4±3.3	2.4±2.3
NH ₄ ⁺	15.2±11.3	13.5±8.4	5.9±5.9	4.6±3.0	3.5±3.5
Ref.	(Guo et al., 2012)	(Zheng et al., 2016a)	(Zheng et al., 2016a)	This study	This study

Figure captions

Fig. 1 Concentrations of organic carbon from primary and secondary organic sources at (a) CP and (b) PKUERS as well as their contributions to the measured organic carbon at (c) CP and (d) PKUERS (%).

Fig. 2 Comparison of the sources at PKUERS between 2016 and 2008

Fig. 3 Particle sources from different air mass origins

Fig. 4 Correlations between SOC and different influencing factors (a)-(b) ozone, (c)-(d) temperature, (e)-(f) water and (g)-(h) H^+ concentration (i)-(j) sulfate concentration

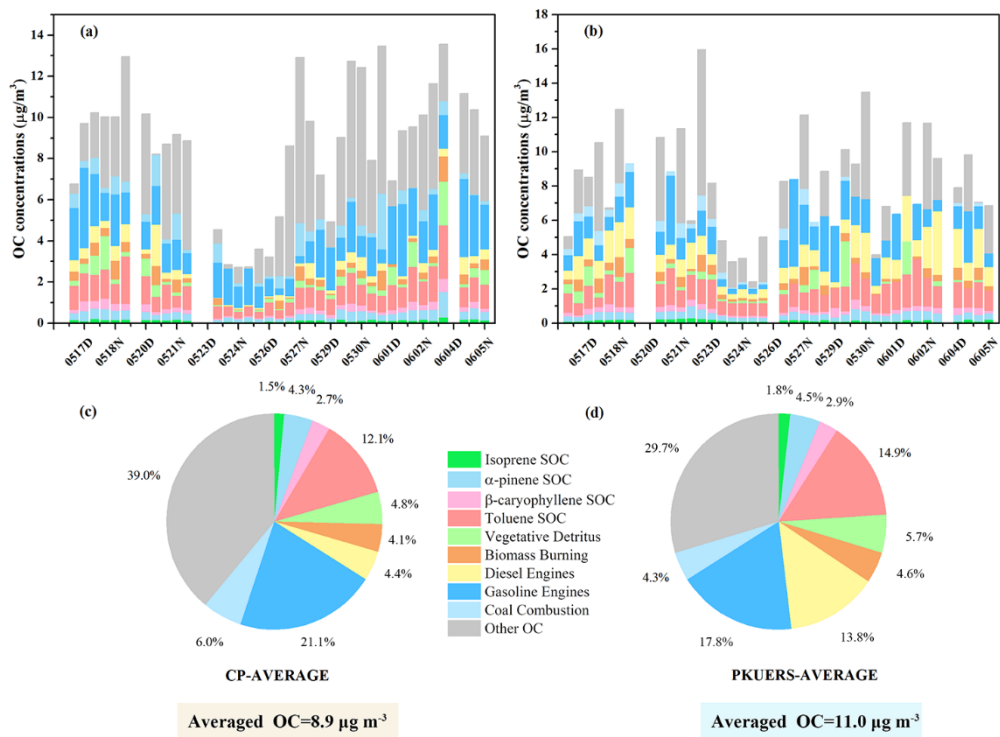


Fig. 1 Concentrations of organic carbon from primary and secondary organic sources at (a) CP and (b) PKUERS as well as their contributions to the measured organic carbon at (c) CP and (d) PKUERS (%).

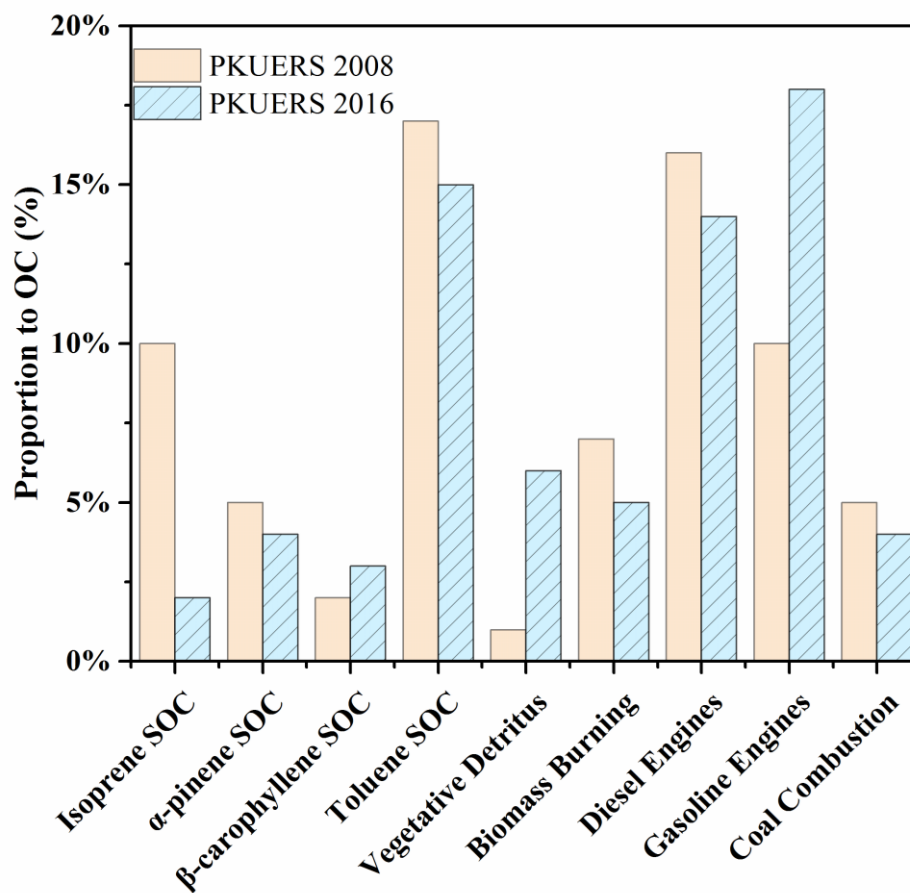


Fig.2 Comparison of the sources at PKUERS between 2016 and 2008 (Guo et al. 2012)

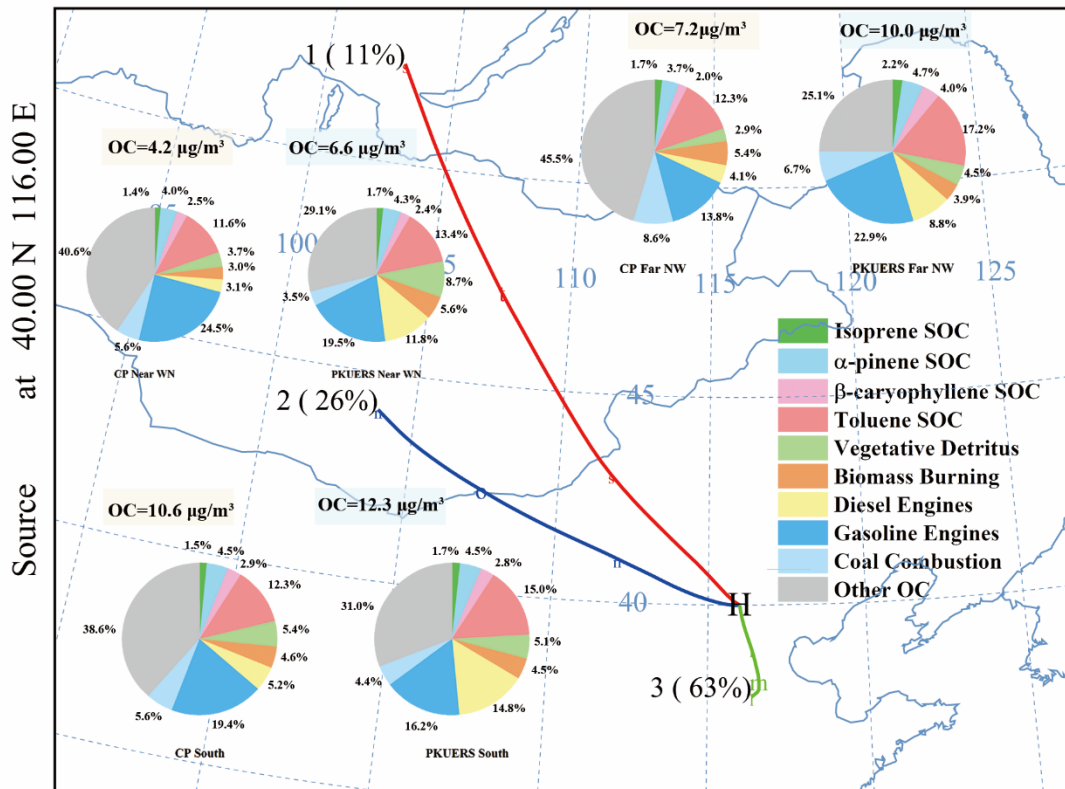


Fig. 3 Particle sources from different air mass origins

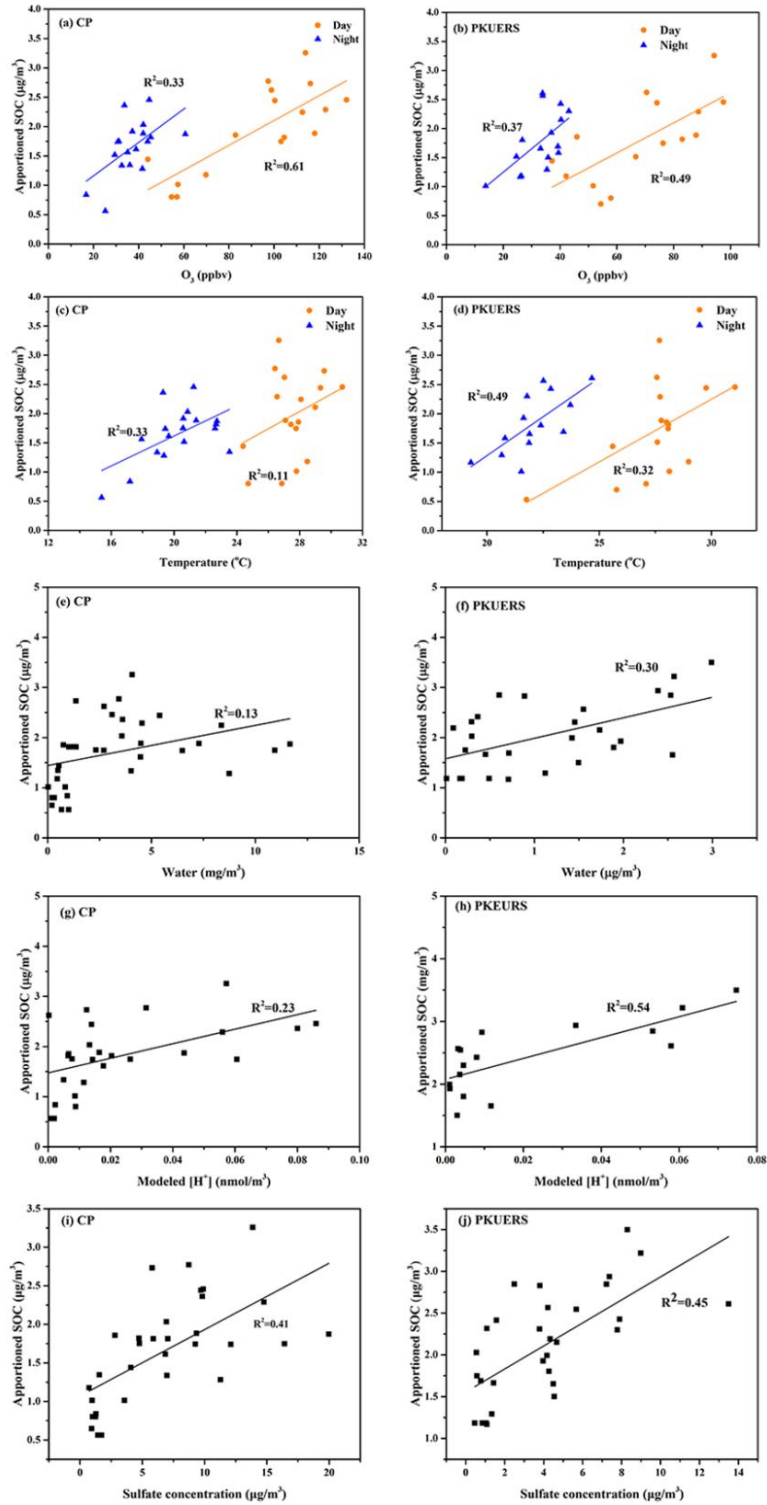


Fig. 4 Correlations between SOC and different influencing factors (a)-(b) ozone, (c)-(d) temperature, (e)-(f) water and (g)-(h) H^+ concentration (i)-(j) sulfate concentration